

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Examiner objected to claims 1 and 18-20 for grammatical errors. Claim 1 has previously been canceled. Claims 18-20 have each been amended as required by the Examiner.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-6, 8-16, 19-23, 28-44, and 46-49 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Alexander, U.S. Patent No. 6,177,931. The Examiner rejected the remaining pending claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious in view of the combination of Alexander with either Del Sesto et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,530,082, Sahai et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,594,699, or Juels, U.S. Patent App. No. 2002/0026345. Claim 1 has previously been canceled in a first preliminary amendment. Claims 39 and 49 have been canceled by the present amendment. As explained in detail below, the Examiner's rejection of claims 24-27 was improper. Also as further explained below, each of claims 2-23, 28-24, and 46-49 has been amended to overcome the Examiner's rejection.

Independent claim 2 has been amended to include the limitation of "at least one description type defined by, at least in part, a thesaurus having information readable by at least two graphical user interfaces." Alexander does not disclose this limitation. To the extent that the system of Alexander includes a description type defined by a thesaurus, Alexander's system is only operable through an electronic programming guide (EPG) displayed on a television or other display. The applicant notes that, though the EPG of Alexander permits a user to browse the internet using a television, the information in Alexander's description type must be read through the EPG, and would not be readable by a different graphical user interface. The applicant further notes that the present application describes the benefits of a system interoperable with several types of appliances, each of which uses its own interface. Therefore, independent claim 2, along with its dependent claims 3-5 and 41, each patentably distinguish over Alexander and should be allowable.

Independent claim 6 has been amended to include the limitation of "a time associated with said at least one of said audio, image, and video, said time expressed in coordinated

universal time and media time.” The applicant notes that the present application discloses that by expressing an associated time in both ways, more accurate information for actions such as “fast forward” and “rewind” may be stored. *See* Specification at p. 142. Alexander does not disclose this limitation, hence claim 6, along with its dependent claims 7-10 and 42 each patentably distinguish over Alexander (or with respect to claim 7, the cited combination of Alexander and Del Sesto) and should therefore be allowable.

Independent claims 11, 16, and 34 have each been amended to include the limitation of “providing said usage history information stored on a mobile storage device selectively insertable into a multimedia system, and containing information about a user . . .” Alexander does not disclose such a mobile storage device, hence each of claims 11, 16, and 34, along with their respective dependent claims 12-15, 17-23, 35-39, 43, 44, and 48 each patentably distinguish over Alexander and the applicable cited combinations involving Alexander.

The Examiner rejected claims 24-27 and 45 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being obvious in view of the combination of Alexander with Juels. The Examiner notes that Alexander fails to disclose the claimed limitation of “including data indicating whether the user’s identity is intended to be revealed to third parties.” The Examiner suggests, however, that Juels discloses that limitation and that it would be obvious to combine the teachings of the two references. The Examiner is incorrect, however, because the system of Alexander never collects the identity of a user in the first instance. *See, e.g.*, Alexander at col. 28 lines 12-29. At most, Alexander distinguishes among multiple users by PIN numbers or other such generic means or assumes that the user is a “family.” Furthermore, though the information collected about a user may include personal information such as whether a user has children or owns a dog, none of that information either requires, or is enhanced by, the actual identification of the user. Also, though Alexander discloses using collected information to facilitate targeted advertisements, no advertiser needs to know the identity of a user of Alexander’s system because the advertisements are delivered through Alexander’s EPG. Therefore, there would be no suggestion in the prior art to make the

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cited combination; because Alexander never collects the identity of any users, a feature of allowing a user to prevent disclosure of an identity would be pointless.

Independent claim 28 has been amended to include the limitation of "said system permitting a user to selectively define the content of said usage history description scheme at multiple levels of granularity." This limitation is not disclosed by Alexander, which at best, discloses that a system may automatically collect information about a user on a more detailed scale, e.g. deducing that a user is not only a sports fan but a fan of a particular sports team. Alexander does not disclose permitting a user to define the level of detail of any information collected. Therefore independent claim 28, along with dependent claims 29-33, 46, and 47 each patentably distinguish over Alexander and any applicable cited combination involving Alexander, and should therefore be allowable.

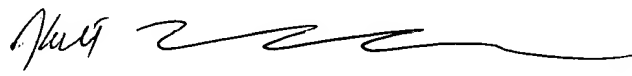
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of claims 2-38, and 40-48.

Applicants submit together with this Amendment, a Petition for Extension of Time (two months), together with the requisite fee. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 03-1550.

Respectfully submitted,

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